
Social Justice, Race and Equity Commission

Introduction

12/17/2020



John J. Funny, Chairman



Profession

- President and CEO of Grice Consulting Group – Planning and Engineering firm.
- Brookhaven Planning Commissioner, Vice-Chair.

Quote

“It’s important to have an avenue for meaningful conversations and change now”

Jose Hardy



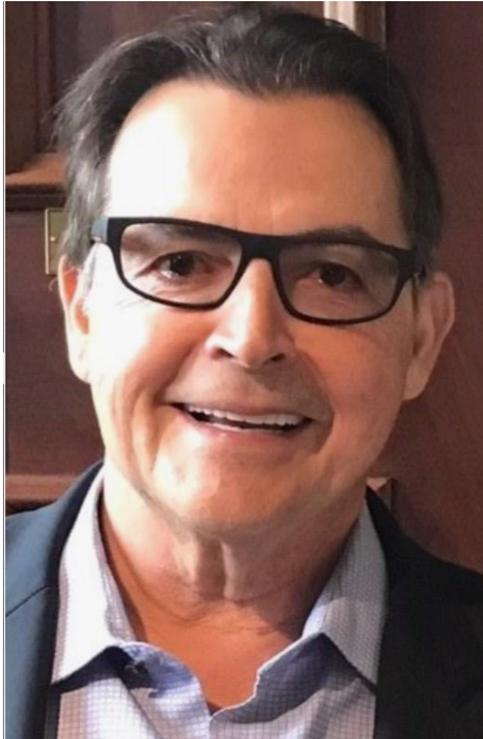
Profession

- Seasoned Senior Electronics/Telecommunications Engineer. I have had the privilege of working for Georgia Power and Southern Company my entire career.

Quote

"I am an optimist at heart. I try to see the good in everyone and every situation no matter what. I believe in "paying it forward" and leading by example. Treat everyone fairly, kindly and most importantly without prejudice."

Rudy M Baserra



Profession:

- Senior Vice President, Latin American Affairs at Vensure, where he leads the organization's growth in the Latino Market.

Quote

"Bringing a diversity of thought by including people with various ideas thoughts and passion in making the city of Brookhaven the City of inclusion. In other words, we welcome a diverse group of leaders who want to think out of the box and truly find cohesiveness in developing a framework of success."

Aixa M Pascual



Profession

- Director of Civic Engagement & Advocacy at the Latin American Association.

Quote

"I'm passionate about creating access to opportunities, about equity, about education, about art. I'm passionate about helping our community do better."

Ruben J Cruz



Profession

- Ruben J. Cruz, the owner and founder of Cruz & Associates, has dedicated his successful career to advocating for the injured in Georgia and Arizona since 1989.

Quote

"Ruben is passionate about helping victims and especially workers obtain fair financial compensation so that they can recover from injuries and securely move forward with their lives."

Rabbi Josh Hearshen



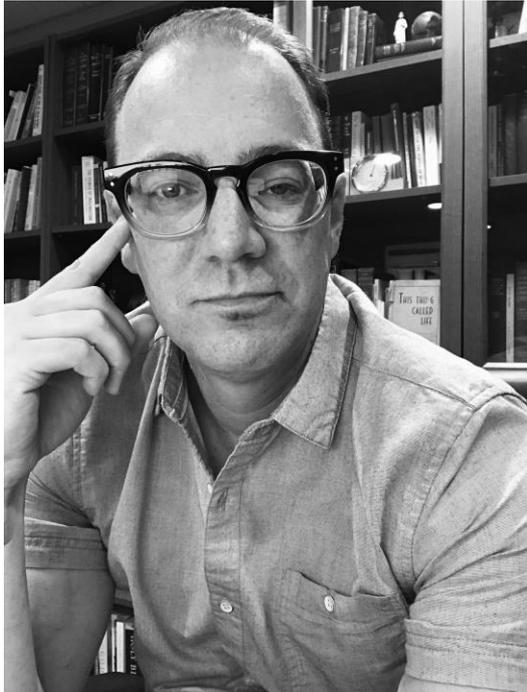
Profession

- Rabbi, leader of a synagogue, a Jewish house of worship.

Quote

"I am passionate about equality, justice and fairness. I have always been a fighter against bigotry of any sort. We all need to do our part to make a more just, equitable and fair community. I have often explained that I refuse to merely advocate and teach about "tolerance." I feel that "tolerance" is way too low of a bar to be set. We tolerate cancer and we tolerate disasters. We do not tolerate diversity... we respect diversity."

Rev. Dr. David F Alexander



Profession

- I am 16+ years ordained minister with Centers for Spiritual Living.

Quote

" My personal purpose is to be a courageous, prophetic and inclusive voice for justice. I believe in a world that works for all through the radical awakening of our individual responsibility and collective interdependence."

Chris Corces-Zimmerman



Profession

- Educator who studies and teaches about race, racism, and whiteness in the U.S. education system.

Quote

"Simply put, for me, I will consider this commission successful if it serves to disrupt the racial status quo of life here in Brookhaven. This type of work is successful when it leads to actual, sustained, systemic change, and that necessitates a challenging of what is accepted as normal and comfortable."

Danita V Knight



Profession

- Vice President for Communications and Marketing at Agnes Scott College.

Quote

"(Knight) provides leadership in the areas of media and community relations, marketing, design, and print and electronic communications. Prior to joining Agnes Scott, she was a marketing, communications, public relations and fundraising consultant for various non-profits in Atlanta."

Monique Wright Hudson



Profession

- Associate Regional Counsel
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Quote

Accordingly, I am convinced that **my purpose** in life is to raise global citizens that are aware of the inequities that are present in the spaces they occupy and equip them with the tools to address those inequities and through their own successes bring about real change."

Melissa Owen



Profession

- Faculty at the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University where I am an Associate Professor and the Assistant Dean for Pre-Licensure Programs.

Quote

"In order for this commission to be considered a success, there needs to be clearly defined measurable outcomes that can be seen by the community as contributing to and improving the city of Brookhaven. This would include collecting and presenting baseline data, identifying the key issues, developing clear interventions/ strategies to address these issues, and having a measurable goal for change/ improvement."

Janis L Niesse



Profession

- Retired the summer of 2015.
- My working career was varied before that, with an eleven-year interlude for at-home mothering.

Quote

"My main passion is two-fold: that there be affordable housing in Brookhaven for low-income persons, and a shelter for the homeless; and that anyone stopped by police be treated with respect, that police refrain from "shooting to kill", and that there be more readily available mental health services for those who encounter the police."

Kirk A Nelson



Profession

- 30 Year Senior Corporate Leader for F500 and Venture Backed Firms – Vice President Sales Operations Fortna – Atlanta, GA

Quote

“Free speech carries with it some freedom to listen.” – Bob Marley

Loren Collins



Profession

- Attorney and mediator.

Quote

"I don't know if I can define the success of the commission at this stage, other than to say that I hope it will be productive in identifying problems that can be addressed, collaborating on proposals to address those problems and issues that can be tackled in the short term, and perhaps beginning to lay the foundation for addressing those issues that will take more time to resolve."

Shahrukh A Arif



Profession

- Head of Product at a small startup called Flashtract.

Quote

"Through my past community work, I have found that I am good at understanding various people's perspectives, across differing backgrounds, and being able to find common grounds to start bringing them together while representing my own point of view. Based on this, I find my purpose here to represent myself and my ethnic/religious community, while also understanding the challenges of others, to determine how we can find a path forward which can benefit all groups."

Charlene S Bowden



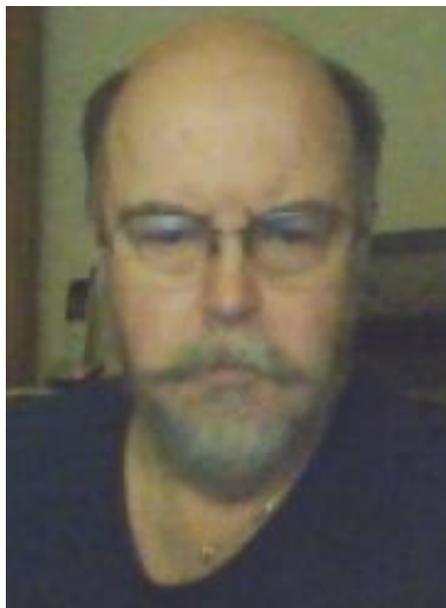
Profession

- President & CEO of It's Just Us Productions, a cross-media company that produces radio and television programs
- Founder & Executive Director of It's Just Us in the Community, Inc., a non-profit organization created to support the growth and development of global citizenship by promoting recognition of our interconnectedness with others, respecting cultural differences, education, and communication inspiring people to thrive.
- Minister/Spiritual Advisor

Quote

“To serve this present age, my calling to fulfill.”

James Daile Moses



Profession

- My professional life has been one of service. To the men and women who protect our country and to the US taxpayer.

Quote

"My purpose is to listen and try to be a positive influence when I can, to develop the best version of me I can be."

Karen B Cariello



Profession

- Currently retired.
- Legal and technology services marketing executive who has worked in a variety of executive sales, client services and management positions.

Quote

"I am passionate about an equitable and sustainable planet. I care deeply about righting the wrongs that slavery and Jim Crow inflicted upon Black people in our country, in Georgia, and in the greater Atlanta area. I believe that the rich diversity of immigrants and refugees who settle here make our lives richer."

Conni C Todd



Profession

- Leadership Consulting - co-principal at Clearwater Consulting Group.

Quote

"I would consider this commission successful when Brookhaven embraces and exercises cultural awareness and inclusion as a mandatory practice of equitable policy setting, policing, educational access, hiring and promotion, access to services, resource allocation, etc."

Davis I Burnett



Profession

- "Profession" "Passion" and "Purpose" are all combined into a simple reply when asked what it is I do in life; I strive to help others be better than they were yesterday.

Quote

"It is my hope that this commission would help bridge the gap between City government and the public, bringing understanding to both sides of the equation and creating empathy between parties."

Tywana Minor



Profession

- Senior HR leader with over 20 years of experience across the human capital, financial services and logistics industries. Current HR leadership role is in the non-profit sector where I have responsibility for the US, Canada and Puerto Rico.

Quote

"My passion is always fueled by people. I am passionate about doing the work and continuing to push myself to do what I can to leave the world better than when I arrived while inspiring others to do the same. Every act of kindness and every act of service matters and makes a difference."

Anibal Torres



Profession

- August 2020-Present Project Director-Prospera, Empowering Hispanic Entrepreneurs
- 2015-July 2020 Executive Director- Latin American Association
- 2007-July 2013 Publisher- MundoHispanico, Cox Media Group

Quote

“Success of the Commission: Assure the goals and gains stated in the Resolution will be discussed and addressed. Bring to the Committee hearings different voices and listen to those difficult conversations. Key are Police relations, effective communication (tone), policies that do address social equity, wealth creation and housing. Continue to be a Welcoming City that celebrates the diversity such as in the Buford Hwy corridor.”

Amy W Corn



Profession

- As a global communications thought leader in technology-enabled industries, I define, develop and execute strategic programs flawlessly to achieve transformational growth based on metrics-driven results.

Quote

“The Brookhaven Social Justice, Race and Equity Commission will succeed by defining, developing and recommending actions (both short- and long-term) necessary to ensure our community works diligently to eliminate racism, advance equality and move forward stronger and unified.”

Thomas S Woodward



Profession

- I am a semi-retired architect and part-time volunteer for a number of community organizations.

Quote

“I am passionate about social, political, economic and environmental justice, empowering others to live a healthy life and achieve their highest potential.”

William J Naglich



Profession

- Managing attorney for the Atlanta office of Willson Jones Carter & Baxley

Quote

“My hope is this commission will establish a productive dialogue to identify specific issues in our community related to race, justice and equity along with developing a plan to make Brookhaven a more just, understanding, welcoming, and neighborly city.”

Catherine K Murithi-Wohl



Profession

- Senior Financial Analyst Consultant

Quote

“Success for our Commission: To make Brookhaven an equitable community where everyone who lives or visit us feels accepted and treated fairly regardless of their race, age, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status religion or disability. Create a just and fair inclusion into Brookhaven in which everyone can participate, prosper and reach their full potential.”

Vena K Cain



Profession

- Psychotherapist and Clinical Social Worker, LCSW

Quote

"Freedom is not a state; it is an act. It is not some enchanted garden perched high on a distant plateau where we can finally sit down and rest. Freedom is the continuous action we all must take, and each generation must do its part to create an even more fair, more just society."

Rep John Lewis

Across That Bridge

Marco Palma



Profession

- Founder of non-profit Los Vecinos de Buford Highway
- Working towards a master degree in public policy

Quote

“The success of the commission: to establish positive relationships with local stakeholders and create positive messaging that would encourage high school students, college students, English as a second language learners to participate in city affairs.”

William Alex Thomas



Profession

- Higher education, specifically college admissions. Currently at Georgia State University.

Quote

“In my opinion, success of the Social Justice, Race, and Equity Commission can be measured by the agenda and action items that can be implemented and continued long after the commission is disbanded. That agenda must include input from a diverse group of Brookhaven community members based on race, age, profession, socioeconomic status, etc., or else it wouldn’t be a true reflection of voices in the community.”

Matthew Paetzhold



Profession

- Military (US Air Force) officer.
- Pilot for a major airline.

Quote

“My passion is instructing efficiency. I do it when I’m at work – both jobs. And I feel extremely blessed to have found my passion in my purpose and be able to do it through my profession. I know this is a rare thing in life and seemingly even rarer in our great country.”

Jeremiah Hinson



Profession

- I currently work for The Salvation Army running a Day Center for the homeless population of Brookhaven, as well as providing mental health services to clients through private practice counseling in Cobb county.

Quote

“I believe it should be a basic human right for people to feel safe being who they are, that people should expect to be treated fairly, and that discrimination against another person for any reason would become intolerable both in our society and in the collective mind of its people.”

Tiffany Russell



Profession

- Director of Diversity and Inclusion at St. Martin's Episcopal School.

Quote

“It is my passion to be creative. Whether it is creating new classes or training to facilitate, I enjoy the process of designing products that are of use and that aid in communities being stronger and better equipped.

Thus, my purpose is to envision and work towards creating a world where folks of color, poor folks, and any other marginalized group has the opportunity to exercise their full range of emotions and dream their biggest dreams without fear or limitations.”

Beth Wendl



Profession

- Minister at Brookhaven Christian Church

Quote

“I believe success of this commission would entail at least in part growing relationships between folks in different facets of the Brookhaven community; tackling larger issues becomes more possible when you know and care about one another personally and care about a successful outcome of those issues because they impact someone you know and love. I also believe success of this commission will involve both inspiring a vision for what is possible and pairing that with practical action to live that vision out.”

Kathy L Wells



Profession

- I am an educator, administrator, student, community leader/activist, education consultant and entrepreneur.

Quote

“In my humble opinion the success of this commission can only be determined by the “true” reliability of its purpose. The creation and implementation of realistic, attainable goals and objectives is extremely important to our success. Our level of passion, to put power to the change we seek is also important... As a team we must implement new ideas of justice to an age - old system of injustice.”

German Barreda



Profession

- Entrepreneur

Quote

“I will define a success on this commission if we get to impact somebody’s life with our work if we can change the situation of one person or the entire community with positive changes on social justice and equality we would have succeed.”

Zaki Anwer



Profession

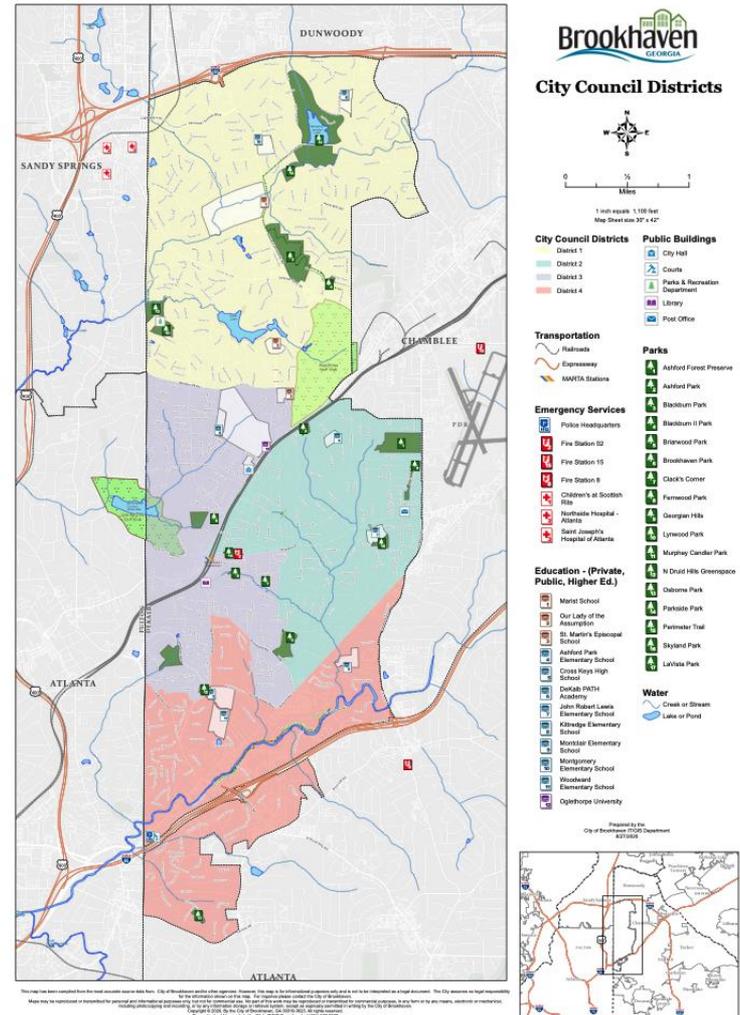
- Senior Manager at EY, Data & Analytics.

Quote

“Success of the commission: Make a tangible difference towards making Brookhaven a welcome city where all persons are treated equally without regard to their race, color, religion or national origin.”

City of Brookhaven

- The City of Brookhaven was established on Dec. 17, 2012 and is DeKalb County's most populous city.
- There are 4 districts
 - Mayor: John Ernst
 - District 1: Linley Jones
 - District 2: John Park
 - District 3: Madeleine Simmons
 - District 4: Joe Gebbia



Brookhaven Population

The City of Brookhaven consists of a diverse group of residents, staff and police officers. The latest data available, included below, is from the 2010 U.S. Census. Total population is approximately 55,000. The U.S. Census Bureau is expected to release data from the 2020 Census in the coming months, which will provide a more accurate picture of the current demographics of the City of Brookhaven.

Gender	Ethnicity/Race
Female: 48.3%	White: 53%
Male: 51.7%	Black or African-American: 10%
	Asian: 5%
	Hispanic/Latino: 30%
	Other: 2%

Brookhaven City Council and Mayor

The Brookhaven City Council includes four councilmembers and a mayor.

Gender	Ethnicity/Race
Female: 2	White: 3
Male: 3	Asian: 1

Brookhaven Staff Demographics

City Staff

Gender	Race/Ethnicity
Female: 36.3%	White: 52.5%
Male: 63.1%	Black or African-American: 26.9%
Do not wish to self-identify: 0.6%	Asian: 2.5%
	Hispanic/Latino: 15.0%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander: 0.6%
	Two or more races: 1.3%
	Do not wish to self-identify: 1.3%

City Management

Gender	Race/Ethnicity
Female: 38.5%	White: 76.9%
Male: 61.5%	Black or African-American: 23.0%

Brookhaven PD Demographics

The Brookhaven Police Department (BPD) is one of the most diverse police agencies in Georgia.

Gender	Ethnicity/Race
Female: 26%	White: 53%
Male: 74%	Black or African-American: 23%
	Asian: 3%
	Hispanic/Latino: 19%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander: 1%
	Two or more races: 1%

SJREC Webpage

- SJREC Board Members
- SJREC Meetings
- Authorizing Measures
- Brookhaven Demographic Data
- City of Brookhaven Organizational Chart
- Code of Ordinances and City Charter
- Resources on Social Justice, Race and Equity
- Glossary of Terms

Social Justice, Race and Equity Commission

Calendar Date:
 Thursday, December 17, 2020 - 7:00pm
 Add to your calendar: [Outlook \(Cal\)](#) - [Google](#)
[Back to calendar](#)

The Brookhaven Social Justice, Race, and Equity Commissions (SJREC) was formed on Sept. 22 by a resolution passed unanimously by City Council. The commission will review the City's Vision and Mission Statement and Charter, policies and procedures, public engagement and communication outreach, and the Brookhaven Police Department's continuum use of force policy, oversight and accountability to identify, evaluate and report potential recommendations to City Council. The commissions' 37 members include representatives from the various faith, education and business communities, all ages from youth to seniors, and Brookhaven Character Area geographic locations.

Message from Mayor John Ernst



As a young City, we have had a lot of experience, and considerable success, is developing planning documents with extensive public input that guides policy making and budget decisions. However, the Brookhaven Social Justice, Race and Equity Commission is arguably more important than any other planning process the City has undertaken. I say this because I believe as civic leaders we have an obligation to listen to or community...especially in times of uncertainty and anxiety. We must also establish environments for genuine encounters to heal community wounds...even if not caused by our actions or events in other parts of this nation or world. Civic engagement is more than just voting once a year, it is a journey with others who may not look like you or share your beliefs, it is collectively solving problems that we may not have created, and fostering opportunities for people to grow in their love of one another.

VISION: Brookhaven will be nationally recognized as a beautiful community where multiple generations can live in safety, flourish in business, and succeed in a historic, sustainable environment with exceptional education and transportation options.

MISSION: In support of the Brookhaven vision the City government shall: encourage and maintain a beautiful community, meet public safety needs, develop an environment for business success, promote sustainable projects and activities, identify and preserve historic and neighborhood resources, facilitate educational opportunities, and improve transportation conditions, connectivity, and options while listening to and communicating with the public.

Contact Information

City Manager
 Christian Sigman
Phone: 404-637-0513
Email:
Christian.Sigman@BrookhavenGA.gov

Office Hours
 Monday-Friday
 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Brookhaven City Hall
 4362 Peachtree Road NE
 Brookhaven, Georgia 30319

Main Phone: 404-637-0500

[View Full Contact Details](#)

Upcoming Events

Social Justice, Race and Equity Commission
 12/17/2020 - 7:00pm
SJREC Meetings
 12/17/2020 - 7:00pm

[View the Social Justice, Race and Equity Commission Calendar](#)



Resources

- [Atlanta Regional Commission](#): Metro Atlanta Speaks presentation.
- [DeKalb County profile](#) by Neighborhood Nexus.